

## Glossary

*adarme*: approximately 179 centigrams.

*adelantado*: authorized to settle a new territory. Literally, "one who pushes forward." A military concept carried over from the Middle Ages. Recruits his own army and bears all costs of the expedition. Distributes land to loyal followers. Reserves an hereditary holding for his own family. Full military and civil authority. Responsible for the internal and external peace of the territory. Represents the king in his own person.

*AGI* [Also *AI*]: Archivo General de Indias in Seville. The chief depository in Spain of materials about the Spanish experiences in the New World.

*alcalde*: mayor; head of a town council.

*almirante*: second in command of a fleet. Sailed in the ship designated as *almiranta*, which guarded the rear of a convoy.

*almud*: an ancient land and grain measure; 0.8 bushels

*alquiere*: a measure of volume. Either a dry measure of 138 deciliters, or a liquid measure of 84 deciliters.

*apu*: a term like *curaca*, borrowed by Garcilaso de la Vega from Inca usage in Peru. In the present context, the noble office of war chief, subject to a principal chief.

*arquebus* [also *harquebus*]: "The earliest and mechanically the crudest of the hand-held firearms. It was fired by touching a piece of lighted matchcord, like a slow-burning fuse, to the powder hole. . . . A ball or shot fired from a harquebus had much greater velocity than an arrow or a crossbow bolt, but it was slow to load, not very accurate, and problematic in rainy weather. Because the matchcord had to be kept alight when action might occur, great quantities of it were required" (Charles Hudson, in *The Juan Pardo Expeditions*, Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990; 147-48).

*arroba*: either a measure of capacity, about 4 gallons, or a weight of about 25 pounds.

- audiencia*: the highest regional appeals court; a hearing at such a court.
- barbacoa*: a raised framework for smoking meat or fish [source of the modern word *barbecue*]; also the name of a wooden framework used to store corn above ground.
- beheaded*: although the Indians at times did behead their enemies, in Garcilaso, at least, this seems to mean to be scalped; the Spaniards had never seen scalping and had no word for it.
- braza*: a unit of measure; approximately one fathom.
- cacique*: an hereditary lord of vassals. A native term in an Arawak language, borrowed by the Spaniards in the conquest of the Antilles and later applied by them elsewhere in the Americas to various chiefs.
- corregidor*: a magistrate.
- cow*: a buffalo. The Spaniards had never seen a buffalo and had no name for it.
- crossbow*: "Although the crossbow could fire a small missile at high velocity and could be aimed and fired by a person of little skill or strength, an experienced Indian archer could fire an arrow with comparable penetrating power (because of the heavier weight of the arrow), and he could fire several arrows in the time it took a crossbowman to load and fire a single bolt" (Charles Hudson, in *The Juan Pardo Expeditions*, 147).
- cruzada*: a gold coin minted during the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, equivalent to seven pesetas.
- curaca*: a district or provincial chief. A native term borrowed from the Quechua language of Peru. It is used interchangeably with *cacique* by the Inca, Garcilaso de la Vega.
- encomienda*: a grant of Indian tributary labor.
- estado*: a unit of measure equal to about 5 to 6 feet.
- factor*: an agent of the king; usually an accountant; reports to the king on the results of the expedition.
- fanega*: a grain measure equal to about 1.6 bushels.
- fanega de tierra*: a land measure equal to about 1.6 acres.
- geira*: a unit of land, roughly equivalent to the English acre.
- league*: a unit of land or sea measure. At least two versions of the Spanish land league were in use during the sixteenth century; which one is meant in a given context is a matter of dispute. The *legua legal* was 5,000 *varas*, equivalent to 2.63 U.S. miles or 4.19 km. The *legua común*, or common league, known to have been used as an itinerary measure, was equivalent to 3.45 miles or 5.57 km.

*maestro de campo* [also *maese de campo*]: camp master; chief administrative officer of the expedition. A military rank corresponding to a present-day colonel.

*New Spain*: the name the Spanish gave to Mexico and its borderlands.

*oidor*: a judge.

*peso*: a Spanish coin of varying value made of gold or silver; often rated at an ounce of pure silver.

*piragua*: a small, shallow-draft boat, meant to be rowed.

*reales* [*real*, sing.]: the real was a silver coin, first minted in Castile. Its value has varied.

*repartimiento*: a share received from the division of the proceeds of an expedition.

*rodeleros*: soldiers armed with sword and shield, from *rodela*, a round shield or buckler.

*tameme*: a native burden bearer or porter. Borrowed by the Spaniards from a native Nahuatl term used in New Spain, thenceforth applied elsewhere in the New World.

*tercio*: a Spanish regiment of infantry; sometimes the commanding officer of one. Garcilaso de la Vega served as *tercio* in a ship under Don Augustin Mexias during the period of the Spanish Armada.

*Tierra Firme*: the mainland of South and Central America.

*tomín*: 1/3 adarme; approximately 596 milligrams.

*vara*: approximately 33 inches.

*vecino*: a free Spanish citizen of a municipality, most often with voice and vote in municipal affairs.

*Yelves*: the city of Elvas in Portugal.